



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ, OSHA form team for better health, safety

BATON ROUGE – The state and federal governments teamed up to increase the safety and health of Louisiana’s workers and to better protect the environment.

On Aug. 9, representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Environmental Quality formally signed a partnership between the two agencies. The signing took place in Room 1051 of the Galvez Building, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, at 2 p.m.

The agreement calls for DEQ inspectors to watch for worker safety concerns while out in the field. If a health or safety issue is found, the inspector will contact OSHA. DEQ and OSHA inspectors will cross-train each other on environmental and worker safety issues. The two agencies will also meet quarterly.

The agencies first began working together in 2004 when DEQ inspectors were unable to perform an inspection at a facility because of worker safety concerns. DEQ contacted OSHA who investigated the matter. The two agencies worked together to help the facility address its safety and environmental issues.

“DEQ conducted more than 10,000 inspections last year,” said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel. “With our inspectors along with OSHA’s inspectors out in the field watching for environmental and safety concerns, a definite synergy will be achieved for both environmental and worker protection.”